

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 4665

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP

SUBJ: FORD-SUHARTO MEETING

REF: JAKARTA 4364

1. IN MEETING WITH MINISTER OF STATE SUDHARMONO APRIL 18, I ASKED WHETHER HE IS YET ABLE TO CONFIRM ACCEPTANCE OF PLANS FOR JULY 5 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD. HE SAID PRESIDENT SUHARTO STILL HOPES ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT FOR MEETING AS PROPOSED AT CAMP DAVID BUT HE CAN NOT FINALLY CONFIRM THIS UNTIL EARLY MAY. WHILE HE GAVE NO PRECISE REASON, HE DID MENTION THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR TWO OTHER VISITS, SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT, STILL NOT FIRM.

2. HE ASKED WHETHER REFERENCE IN PRESIDENT FORD'S SPEECH TO MEETING WITH LEADER OF INDONESIA WAS INTENDED TO REFER SPECIFICALLY TO CAMP DAVID PROPOSAL. I SAID I WAS QUITE CERTAIN PRESIDENT HAD THIS IN MIND AND HOPED REFERENCE TO SUCH MEETING HAD NOT CREATED ANY PROBLEMS. HE REPLIED HE UNDERSTOOD REASON FOR REFERENCE. ONLY PROBLEM HAD BEEN WITH PRESS AND HE HAD TAKEN CARE OF THAT. HE THEN ASKED WHETHER OTHER MEETINGS MENTIONED WITH AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND SINGAPORE WERE ALSO TO BE MEETINGS IN US I SAID I ASSUMED THEY WERE SINCE I KNEW OF NO INTENTIONS BY THE PRESIDENT TO VISIT THESE COUNTRIES.

3. HE ASKED ONCE MORE WHETHER CAMP DAVID AND WASHINGTON
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PAGE 02 JAKART 04665 190437Z

WERE ONLY ALTERNATIVES FOR MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD

AND PRESIDENT SUHARTO. I CONFIRMED THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF BUSY JULY 4 WEEKEND THESE REPRESENTED ONLY ALTERNATIVES. GIVEN MANY PRESSURES ON PRESIDENT FORD AT THAT TIME, I KNEW HE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY CONFIRMATION THAT CAMP DAVID OR WASHINGTON ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE SATISFACTORY.

4. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR FROM OTHERS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT THAT HE IS PLANNING ON CAMP DAVID MEETING. I ASSUME THAT SUDHARMO AS GOOD STAFF MAN, HOWEVER, DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE FINAL GREEN LIGHT UNTIL ALL DETAILS ARE IN PLACE. NEWSOM

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